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MEDICAL LIBRARY

Unified direction of the major health agencies of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare was assigned on March 13 to Dr. Philip R. Lee, Assistant Secretary for Health and Scientific Affairs, by Acting Secretary Wilbur J. Cohen. Under the new arrangement, Dr. Lee has direct authority over the Public Health Service and the Food and Drug Administration.

Dr. Lee

Surgeon General William H. Stewart and Food and Drug Commissioner James L. Goddard will report directly to the Assistant Secretary. Both officials will continue to carry out their present administrative functions.

Mr. Cohen has directed Dr. Lee to complete Department studies of health organization, and to give top priority to the organizational relationship of the National Institutes of Health, the Bureau of Health Manpower, and the National Library of Medicine, as well as the relationship of HEW health programs to those of other Federal departments and agencies. Mr. Cohen indicated that he hoped recommendations would be submitted to the President within 30 to 60 days.

Acting Secretary Cohen also expanded Dr. Lee's responsibility for over-all health policy direction and coordination of other health programs, including Medicare, Medicaid, and health activities of the Children's Bureau.

Dr. Lee's office will continue to serve as the Department's focal point for liaison and coordination with all other Federal agencies in regard to their health programs.

Acting Secretary Cohen said that the change is an important step toward carrying out President Johnson's directive to strengthen the leadership and management of the Department's health function. In his Health Message to Congress in the previous week, the President directed the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to submit "a modern plan of organization to achieve the most efficient and economical operation of the health program of the Federal government."

NLM Regents Meet

The NLM Board of Regents assembled at the Library on March 11 for their twenty-ninth meeting. At the end of the first day's conferences, the Regents boarded a plane for Atlanta, Georgia, to spend March 12 at the Library's National Medical Audiovisual Center. This was the first opportunity for most members of the Board to see NMAC, which became a part of the Library last July (NLM News, June 1967).

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
NEWS

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"Fair Use" Under Copyright Faces Court Test

A petition filed with the U. S. Court of Claims in Washington, D. C., on February 27, 1968, charges the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare "including but not limited to the Library of the National Institutes of Health and the National Library of Medicine," with copyright infringement. The petition, filed on behalf of the Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Maryland, publishers of medical and other scientific books and periodicals, cites eight counts of infringement by photocopying articles from periodicals to which the company holds copyright.

The suit, brought under Section 1498 (b) of Title 28, U. S. Code, which permits claims for damages to holders of copyright for infringements by the Federal Government, will be defended by the Department of Justice.

Williams & Wilkins first challenged the Library's photocopying practices in April 1967, when they notified NLM that permission to photocopy from their journals would be granted "provided the person making the copies pays us a royalty of 2¢ per page per copy" (NLM News, May 1967). Similar notification from the same publisher was recently received by the New York Academy of Medicine.

The interpretation by the courts of the principle of "fair use" as applied to photocopying by libraries will have vast significance for research libraries and the scientists who use them. Expressions of interest and concern have already been received from the Nation's major library associations and many leading scholars.

Demand Search Coverage To Change

Effective April 1, routine searches of the MEDLARS file in response to individual requests for bibliographies will cover citations input from January 1966 on. The current practice is to provide demand bibliographies covering the entire file. This is being modified because the rising number of requests for search services are exceeding the computer time available to process them (see MEDLARS II, NLM News, January 1968).

MEDLARS Stations Will Be Linked To NLM

Arrangements are being made to establish data linkage between MEDLARS stations and the Library. This will expedite the transmission of demand search requests, which will reach NLM directly in machine-readable card form. Expected to be operational by the end of March are the stations at Harvard and the University of Colorado; the stations at UCLA, Ohio, Alabama, and Michigan will establish connections as the necessary equipment (IBM 1050) becomes available to them.

Automation Being Planned At NMAC

The National Medical Audiovisual Center is planning to automate its film distribution activities. A computerized system is being developed for booking film, preparation of shipping documents, inventory and suspense control, collection of utilization data, and reports to program sponsors.

NMAC serves as a worldwide distribution point for medical and allied science films, film strips, slides, and other audiovisuals for the Public Health Service. Its collection includes about 21,000 prints of 1,300 titles; during 1967, about 75,000 loans were processed. The principal borrowers are health-related organizations -- health agencies, universities (schools of medicine, nursing, etc.), and hospitals.

Plans call for a system which would combine source data automation and data processing techniques for maximum manipulation of data to produce the necessary reports, and for handling loan transactions with maximum speed and efficiency.

* * *

Dr. Marcial (center) confers with Dr. Joseph Leiter, Associate Director, Library Operations, and Miss Mary Corning, Special Assistant to the Director.

Dr. Luis David Marcial-Martinez, Head of the Technical Department, Under Secretary' Office, Ministry of Health, Mexico, D.F., is visiting NLM for a special program of broadly-based training in biomedical communications.

Dr. Marcial is observing NLM programs and operations preliminary to the development in Mexico City of a national center for medical bibliographic information. The center will be a joint project of Mexico's Ministry of Health, Academy of Medicine, Social Security Institute, and the Nationa Autonomous University. Once the center is established, NLM will also provide continuing consultation and training for staff.

Dr. Marcial received his M.D. degree from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Mexico, and M.P.H. from the School of Public Health, Mexico City. He has been active in public health affairs for 15 years.

Toxicological Data User Study Under Way

A study "to strengthen the communication links between health research and health application" is being undertaken by Science Communication, Inc., Washington, D.C., through an 18-month, $156,000 contract awarded by the Library's Toxicology Information Program.

Patterns of uses and needs for toxicological data in the health professions will be identified in the investigation to aid in the design of a computer-based national toxicological information system now under development at the Library. (NLM News, August 1967)

Personnel

Mr. Ben L. Parker has been appointed Special Assistant to the Associate Director, Research and Development. He comes to the Library from IBM's Federal Systems Division, Washington, D. C., where he served as Staff Analyst with the Department of Defense.

Mr. Lawrence G. Livingston has been detailed from the Council on Library Resources to work with the Library's Research and Development staff. Mr. Livingston will also represent NLM on a working group of the U. S. National Libraries Task Force on Automation and Other Cooperative Services.

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NLM PROGRAM REPORT No. 10 - Oral History

by Peter D. Olch, M.D.
Deputy Chief, History of Medicine Division

Since its inception in September 1966 (NLM News, October 1966), the Library's Oral History Program, under the direction of the Deputy Chief, HMD, has accumulated over 100 hours of oral history materials. The majority of these audio tapes are interviews with individuals who have made significant contributions to the development of contemporary medicine and public health.

Indexed transcripts, as well as the original tape recordings, will be made for all of those interviews initiated by the Library; some of the interviews initiated by others and presented to NLM are preserved on tape only.

Among the recorded and fully processed interviews in the Oral History Collection are interviews with: Stanhope Bayne-Jones, M.D., Brigadier General (ret.), U. S. Army Reserve Medical Corps (see NLM News, April 1967); Michael M. Davis, Ph.D.; J. M. T. Finney, Jr., M.D.; Warfield M. Firor, M.D.; Senator Lister Hill; Harvey B. Stone, M.D.; and Albert Szent-Györgi, M.D.

Currently under way, or in various stages of processing, are interviews with Ward Darley, M.D., Albert Baird Hastings, Ph.D., and several persons concerned with the legislative history of the Food and Drug Administration.

Prospective users should be aware that interviewees have imposed restrictions on access to and use of much of this material.

1968 List Of Journals Indexed

Copies of the 1968 *List of Journals Indexed in Index Medicus* are now available for $ .75 each from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402. The 2,288 journals being indexed for MEDLARS as of January 1968 are listed in four sections: (1) alphabetic listing by abbreviated title, followed by full title; (2) alphabetic listing by full title, followed by abbreviated title; (3) alphabetic listing by subject field; and (4) alphabetic listing by country of origin.